

[FREE] The End of Ownership: Personal Property in the Digital Economy (The Information Society Series)

## The End of Ownership: Personal Property in the Digital Economy (The Information Society Series)

Aaron Perzanowski, Jason Schultz  
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**Aaron Perzanowski, Jason Schultz : The End of Ownership: Personal Property in the Digital Economy (The Information Society Series)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End of Ownership: Personal Property in the Digital Economy (The Information Society Series):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Read this fast, or slow, depending on why you are reading it  
By Colin McLarty  
Read this fast to learn a whole lot about things you think you own, but the manufacturer thinks you are leasing. It makes more practical difference right now than you probably think it does. And it will start to make a lot of difference as manufacturers get bolder about controlling what you can do with these things (like controlling what

kinds of coffee you can use with their coffee maker or what ink you can use in their printer or, maybe, what brand of gas you can put in their car). Read it more slowly as a fantastically accessible, well written legal article. Very smart people, on all sides of the issues, have put a lot of high-paid thought into these things. It goes into the law -- by statute, and in regulations, and in court cases. This book gives a very readable account, in considerable detail, of the legislative debates and court cases. Kudos to whoever first realized this should not be a law review article but a popular book.<sup>5</sup> 5 people found the following review helpful. The end of ownership By Peter Blok Excellent overview of the downsides of the 'ownership' of digital products. The solutions they propose are also interesting but do not go far enough. What we should look for, in my view, is a new, international legal framework based a new definitions of (bundles of) ownership. Commons and Elinor Ostrom made some promising starts but these should be refined.

If you buy a book at the bookstore, you own it. You can take it home, scribble in the margins, put in on the shelf, lend it to a friend, sell it at a garage sale. But is the same thing true for the ebooks or other digital goods you buy? Retailers and copyright holders argue that you don't own those purchases, you merely license them. That means your ebook vendor can delete the book from your device without warning or explanation -- as Amazon deleted Orwell's 1984 from the Kindles of surprised readers several years ago. These readers thought they owned their copies of 1984. Until, it turned out, they didn't. In *The End of Ownership*, Aaron Perzanowski and Jason Schultz explore how notions of ownership have shifted in the digital marketplace, and make an argument for the benefits of personal property. Of course, ebooks, cloud storage, streaming, and other digital goods offer users convenience and flexibility. But, Perzanowski and Schultz warn, consumers should be aware of the tradeoffs involving user constraints, permanence, and privacy. The rights of private property are clear, but few people manage to read their end user agreements. Perzanowski and Schultz argue that introducing aspects of private property and ownership into the digital marketplace would offer both legal and economic benefits. But, most important, it would affirm our sense of self-direction and autonomy. If we own our purchases, we are free to make whatever lawful use of them we please. Technology need not constrain our freedom; it can also empower us.

"By reading this blurb, you agree, irrevocably and in perpetuity, that this book is an excellent, enraging, eye-opening, essential overview of the way that 'intellectual property' has become a twenty-first century virus that lets the biggest corporations in the world strip you of your actual property rights. To opt-out, die." --(Cory Doctorow, MIT Media Lab Activist-in-Residence, and author of *Information Doesn't Want to Be Free*) "The 'end of ownership' might sound like hyperbole, but this important book explains that we are at risk of losing many benefits of ownership in the digital age. Digital works, whether software or sound recordings, are regulated by licenses and by copyright law in ways that conventional products have not been. All is not lost, however, as the authors explain how we can reclaim ownership as a fundamental norm of our society and extend it to our music, our software, our devices, and the Internet of Things." --(Pamela Samuelson, Richard M. Sherman Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law) "The gradual erosion of ownership is a long-term threat to human freedom and our capacity for self-development. Like physical erosion, however, the changes are subtle and even invisible. This book makes clear the stakes and sounds an important warning." --(Tim Wu, Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law, Columbia Law School, and author of *The Master Switch*) "This book centers our attention on the central principle of information ownership -- exhaustion of intellectual property rights -- and zooms in on the core issues that should keep all of us awake at night, especially those committed to access, use, and dissemination of knowledge now and for generations to come. Not only is this an exceptionally clear explanation of the current digital ownership landscape it is a call to action to all who can change it." --(Mary Lee Kennedy, former Chief Library Officer, New York Public Library) About the Author Aaron Perzanowski is Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University. Jason Schultz is Professor of Clinical Law at New York University School of Law and director of NYU's Technology Law and Policy Clinic.